

Application No. 09/761,112  
Amendment dated January 5, 2006  
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2005

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Docket No.: 20042-7001

**REMARKS**

The Examiner's courtesy of a telephone interview today is greatly appreciated in which we discussed the invention, the claims, and the Novikov et al. reference. As discussed, the undersigned has refocused the pending claims on the disclosed invention for a biometrically controlled power gating system to control power to operating components of electrically powered devices.

The claims have been amended to expressly focus on the power gating type biometric access control described in the patent application as originally filed. As set forth, a power gate is interposed between a device and a power source for the device. The power gate prevents actuation of components of the device until the biometric test is satisfied, after which the power gate is enabled to energize the protected components of the device. The Novikov et al. reference is similar to the prior art class of devices described in the application in which the electronic device (here the computer 50 or remote computer 51) participates in the evaluation of the biometric data (see, e.g., col. 5, lines 25-31) thus the computer's power is not gated by the biometric system as currently claimed.

In view of the above amendment and comments, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance and further consideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael E. Woods

Registration No.: 33,466

PATENT LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL E.  
WOODS112 Barn Road  
Tiburon, California 94920-2602  
(415) 388-0830  
(415) 388-0860 (Fax)  
Attorney For Applicant